



Minutes from March 16, 2019 Meeting
11140 Ettrick St, Oakland, CA 94605
10- Noon

Meeting called to order by Chair Sue Piper at 10:10 am

Present:

Ken Benson
Haywood Blake
Carolyn Burgess
Janet Clark
Barbara Goldenberg
Michael Kilian
Jerry Kent
Martin Matarrese
Roger Phelps
Sue Piper
Bob Sieben
Gary Sirbu
Elizabeth Stage
Nick Vigilante
Doug Wong

Guests:

Rafael Grillo Avila
Lisa Jacobs
Almon Matarrese

- 1) Minutes of prior meeting approved.
- 2) Treasurer's Report \$24,711 in account.
- 3) **Old Business-**
 1. **Benchmark study survey** is out, over 1200 names on our list with responses due April 7th; looking at how they handle wildfire prevention, inspection management and processing; statewide; trying to get from it, things that each respondent thinks are successful and why, opportunities locally and regionally. Sue will send pdf to members.
 2. **Regional Wildfire Prevention Management District update**—Jerry Kent—Jon, Ken, Sue, Jerry and Bill Boyd to meet with Assemblyman Jim Wood's aid Paul Ramey—standards for Defensible Space, Hardening, -- legislation give money and safe policy on the line to deal with WUI .



Would provide consistent, standards for defensible space, hardening, evacuation but jurisdictions within the region still responsible for managing their part. Covers public and private properties. Gary Sirbu moved and Ken Benson and Bob Sieben both seconded that OFSC will strongly advocate for mandatory standards on vegetation control and hardening. Vote taken was unanimous to suggest that Ad Hoc Committee stand firm on mandatory position.

3. **Vegetation Management Plan**—meeting with OWLS Presentation management and Public - March 25—may not be really fleshed out, Sheng to meet with consultant.
4. **Oakland Urban Forestry Plan**—Martin—was a representative Mary McAllister attended March 2 Bay Area Chapter of Society of American Forestry at Trudeau Center. How can SAF advocate for fire safety locally—write letters for funding support and more research for fire safety, vegetation management standards to explain clearly some of the issues: native vs. nonnative; treatments of forest and brush lands/grass lands, what’s underlying science.
5. **Evacuation Plan**—Doug Wong commented that mainly for citizens peace of mind—don’t take into consideration the direction of fire, wind, resources coming -- doesn’t really work to preset evacuation directions. Elizabeth Stage commented that there are certain roads that you have to use no matter what—problem—people who don’t drive—how long to get paratransit; fire fighters already know, and citizens need to know about vulnerability of that road, preparation for neighbors picking up neighbors, certain roads in the hills that culminate in no exit, or things funnel into, evacuation plan map doesn’t tell people which direction go, designated high priority evacuation components. Gary Sirbu mentioned that in his HOA group they have identified exits you can walk down the hill to next street below, identified potential hazards in those exits—if there is 2 private property lots who have consented - neighborhood groups encouraged to do that planning; if someone’s property has a lane that is designated—do they have to make sure they maintain access? Doug Mosher still in running for Cal Fire Grant—goal is to share preparedness information, standardize it across the hills. Marin is a best practice, do a 3 year transportation studies on the routes and make it available to people who do the evacuation planning. Pre-fire planning, and practice routes.
6. **Status of Staffing and Support of Vegetation Management Unit— Combined unit**— At a meeting with Mayor and City Administrator, representatives from OFSC, NHCA, Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association and Montclair Neighborhood Council were assured equipment, phones, and desks would be ready for the Vegetation Inspectors as they on board. Budget—as a priority; Lisa Jacobs commented that this is a city-wide issue—one of problems, Union 21



block getting consultants while we have vacancies- and therefore it takes longer to fill them.

7. **Resolution**--Given how wildfire affects the whole city need to push City Council for resolution to make Wildfire Prevention a priority. Sue gave update of the February 25th meeting with new District 4 Councilperson Shen and it's obvious that we have 3 votes but need to confirm Loren Taylor (Barbara, Martin, Gary), Larry Reid- --(Ken to ask Pat Mossburg) and Sue to send flowers to councilperson McIlhaney. Upcoming Public Safety Committee Meetings where we can come to the microphone in Open Forum professing that they adopt the resolution—Carolyn Burgess to send list of calendar dates to all.
8. **Public Safety Committee Request**—follow-up with Noel Gallo to get reporting matrix on the agenda.
9. **Photo Exhibit as Kick Off to Inspection Season**—Martin talked to Vince Crudele, Supervising Inspector for Vegetation Management Unit, to suggest as a gallery show of photos on the mezzanine level of City Hall as a kick off of current fire season inspection. The photos show goats and volunteer pictures. Council District 1 representative Lisa Jacobs to look into it.
10. **Policy discussion** on whether OFSC should take a position on specific development projects. The Board approved a policy that prohibits OFSC from intervening in advocacy in open development landscaping and specific items before city departments, courts and administrative appeals, court actions.
11. **Parking in hills project** -- Lisa Jacobs, District 1 Council Representative reported the Phase II status and that it was being reviewed by the City Attorney's office who stipulated that OFD has the authority on parking as to fire code stipulation emergency access routes declared by Fire Chief-fire lane, signage, and resolution for all roads; major routes.

Next meeting May 11th 10am at 11140 Ettrick Street, Oakland, CA 94605

12:20pm Meeting Adjourned